

# 8 BLUE NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2016

### **Science [smilitello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:smilitello@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)**

We are approaching the end of the school year. The students are working on their last science content standard: Relates heat transfer to particle motion. This unit is being taught in a different manner; the students have a learning grid and are making decisions about how they will learn the material and show their understanding. All students will be taking a test on Tuesday, May 10th and submitting a project on Monday, May 14th. Once we complete our Heat Transfer standard, we will be working on the Inquiry standard for the rest of the year. Some of the projects the kids are looking forward to include: building and assessing a pipe insulation roller coaster, the chemical and physical changes of the Coke & Mentos explosion, and looking at truths and falsehoods about Climate Change. The Science, Technology, and Engineering MCAS test will be given on Wednesday, May 11th and Thursday, May 12th. This will cover all the science that the students learned from grade 6 to now.

### **ELA [kmlewis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:kmlewis@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)**

We recently started our Shakespeare unit. This unit focuses on two essential questions: How do people read and understand Shakespeare, and should we still read Shakespeare in school (is he still relevant). Students already worked on gaining background knowledge about Shakespeare's life and times, and we read and analyzed "Sonnet 18." During class now, we are reading the play A Midsummer Night's Dream. Students volunteer to read a part, and as a class, we paraphrase and analyze the text. We will also be watching the movie, and students will be performing a scene with a group. At the end of the unit, students will write about the second essential question: Should we still read Shakespeare today?



### **Suggestions - How to Help with ELA at Home**

Questions to ask your child:

- Can you summarize what you read during class today?
- What was the most challenging part of today's reading?

- What happened in the play that was funny today?

#### Additional Resources:

- [No Fear Shakespeare online version](#) of the text with modern translations
- [Online Plot Summary](#)
- [60 Second Recap Videos](#)

#### Upcoming Events

May 23 - Shakespeare Now comes to Oak to perform A Midsummer Night's Dream

May 19 and May 31 - ELA PARCC testing

#### Social Studies [namaral@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:namaral@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

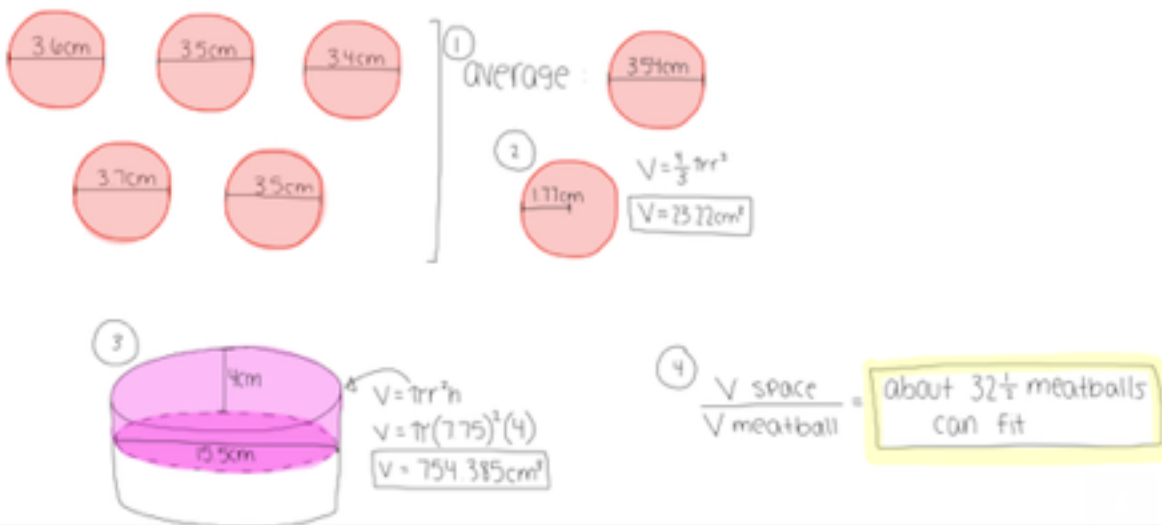
We have just started talking about the Reformation and how religious reform not only affected Europe, but people overseas at the dawn of the Age of Exploration. For the remainder of the year, students will be focusing on the impact that changes from the Renaissance had on millions of people in the Western Hemisphere. The remaining standards are: Explains the origins and impact of the Reformation & Analyzes the impact of European exploration. Our most recent activity that you can ask your child about was our re-enactment of the Diet of Worms. Students were assigned various positions of power in the Holy Roman Empire and we discussed how the power structure of Europe was changed by Martin Luther's religious reforms.

As the presidential election heats up, we have been spending some time in class discussing what students have seen on the news, what the 'major issues' are, and how this election is quickly becoming more and more historic. These discussions always lead to questions about how the three branches of government work, who's who in the government and how the country votes in the primaries. I have been most impressed with the connections students have made between how our system of government runs and how the Roman Republic ran.

#### Math [jcarlin@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:jcarlin@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

We have started working on our unit involving the volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres. We used these formulas to predict how many meatballs could be placed in a pot containing sauce before the sauce spilled over the lip of the pot. Our predictions were close, but due to the actual shape of the pot it was able to hold a couple more. Next, we will be looking at exponential functions. Students will be able to represent an exponential function with a table, graph, or equation. They will determine the effects of the growth/decay factor and initial value for an exponential function on a graph of the function. Throughout the unit, students will develop an understanding of the ways in which exponential functions can be used to model real-world situations. Below, a student applied skills we are practicing in math to solve a real-world problem on cooking.

2. What is the largest amount of meatballs that will fit into the pot of boiling sauce without the pot spilling over?



### Learning Skills [dmccarthy@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:dmccarthy@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us)

It has been a busy few weeks, getting ready for PARCC and MCAS while also working to complete our class work. It is also time for me to begin to change the format for my skills class to help students prepare for the expectations in high school. Beginning Monday, May 16, I will be allowing students to decide how they want to use their time in class. I will continue to do a short 'warm-up' activity and as always be sure that they are aware of any announcements for the day and upcoming due dates for work, but I will no longer be structuring the class. At the high school, students are expected to come to their skills class with questions and be prepared to work. This could mean they are doing homework if there is something they did not get done, however, it will be their only opportunity to see their Learning Skills Teacher so the time would be best used to get help with work and get questions answered whenever possible. Students do receive credit for their Learning Skills class in high school, and therefore are graded. For those students going on to private schools, I will also focus on how they are recording their homework and how they are organizing their materials. When appropriate I may have them do their work on paper rather than on the iPad as they will may not have access to technology throughout their day. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns:

